



**State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**  
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**Office of Worker's Compensation In-Person Hearing Update**

Long-awaited in-person hearings will resume on January 19, 2021. Cases that are not resolved by settlement conference will be scheduled for in-person hearings unless, at the ALJ's discretion, a video hearing is deemed appropriate. OWCH has been conducting video hearings since June 2, 2020 and will continue to use them in select cases.

In-person hearings will initially be scheduled at the Hill Farms State Office Building, 4822 Madison Yard Way, Madison, WI 53705. In addition, OWCH will soon have designated hearing rooms in Milwaukee available for in-person hearings. Please watch this website for further information on the Milwaukee hearing rooms.

In response to the COVID environment, OWCH has created hearing rooms with safety in mind. Hearings will be conducted according to the new procedures outlined in the OWCH COVID-19 Operating Plan, Procedures for Resuming In-Person Hearings, Hill Farms State Office Building, Madison, Wisconsin. Safety measures include:

1. A mask mandate,
2. Room layout based on minimum six-foot social distancing,
3. Plexiglass barriers,
4. Portable audio systems to enhance sound quality for speaking and recording,
5. HEPA air purifiers to augment the building's state-of-the-art HVAC system, and
6. New video capabilities.

These steps have been taken after conducting telephone meetings with state and county health officers; review of Wisconsin Supreme Court rules, Center for Disease Control guidelines, and state court COVID-19 safety protocols; reviewing design and layout of hearing rooms to meet minimum six-foot social distancing; surveying the measures that other states have taken in response to the pandemic; and, finally, consulting with a barrier vendor on placement and pricing.

(Please note, when a video conference hearing is deemed appropriate by an ALJ, a connectivity conference will be held in advance of the hearing.)